(SSIs) closing or locking out in view of increasing competition is not maintained centrally.

(c) and (d) The data on the number of employees who lost their livelihood due to closures and lock outs in the SSI sector are not maintained centrally. However, works and technicians rendered jobless due to closure and lock out of SSI units can avail of the self-employment opportunities under the Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana and Rural Employment Generation Programme being implemented by the Central Government throughout the country.

Comprehensive promotional package for SSIs

1167. SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that a comprehensive promotional package for SSI sector has been prepared and the Cabinet approval has also been obtained for this purpose recently;

(b) if so, what are the salient features of the promotional package which helps to boost the SSI sector in the country;

(c) how the proposed package would free the SSI sector from the Inspector Raj;

(d) whether there is any component in the package for providing them with technological support; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) to (e) The Government will announce the package for promotion of micro and small enterprises soon.

Plastic bag manufacturing industrial units

1168. SHRI R. SHUNMUGASUNDARAM: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) how many small scale industrial units manufacturing plastic bags

are affected by the policy of Government not to allow plastic bags below 20 microns; and

(b) what are the rehabilitatory steps taken for them to survive?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) To encourage proper waste collection, the Government has brought out the Recycled Plastics Manufacture and Usage Rules, 1999 as amended in 2003. As per these rules, the manufacture, stocking, distribution or selling of plastic bags, below 8 x 12 inches (20 x 30 cms) in size and less than 20 microns in thickness is prohibited. Since there is no ban on manufacturing plastic bags of other sizes and thickness, no small scale industrial unit manufacturing plastic bags would be affected by the policy of Government not to allow plastic bags below 20 microns.

(b) Does not arise, in view of (a) above.

Decline in number of small scale industries

†1169. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of small scale industries has been declining in certain States in the country from 2001-02 to 2005-06;

(b) if so, the names of such States;

(c) whether Government have gathered information about the reasons behind the decline in the number of small scale industries in these States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) No, Sir. The number of registered small scale industrial units has increased in all the States in the country from 2001-02 to 2005-06. State-wise details of these industrial units are given in the Statement (*See* below):—

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.